

Wombwell Ward Alliance
Held in Wombwell Library at 6.00pm on 28th January, 2019

Present: Councillors Frost (Chair) and Daniel Griffin together with S Chavan, B Eastwood, M Morgan, J Walker (Berneslai Homes), B Whittaker and J Whittaker.

In attendance: A Bradshaw (BMBC Community Development Officer), L Lyon (Area Council Manager) and W Ward (BMBC Council Governance Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor R Wraith (Vice Chair), P Jones and K Faulkes (Head of Service Stronger Communities)

1 Chairpersons Opening Remarks

The Chair, Councillor Frost, welcomed all members to the meeting

2 Ward Alliance Governance Arrangements

The meeting took the form of a Workshop session focusing on the revised Ward Alliance Governance Arrangements that had been approved by Council on the 29th November, 2018.

Communications

The meeting opened with a discussion about the problems of communication. It was stated that local residents, community groups and other organisations were disappointed at the lack of communication about progress on projects, on information about and from groups within the ward and also in relation to the Principal Towns Initiative.

These comments were noted and whilst it was accepted that communication could be better, it was untrue that progress on schemes was not progressing. In relation to Principal Towns, it was reported that the Council was awaiting further information from the consultants but an assurance was given that this matter was being vigorously pursued by local ward members.

There was then a discussion as to how communication could be improved such as providing notice boards, using social media or newsletters. In response, the Area Council Manager stated that an investigation would be undertaken to see what improvements could be made.

Governance Arrangements – overview

Lisa Lyon outlined her role as the Area Council Manager and then gave a presentation on:

- How Ward Alliances fitted into the overall Area Governance Structure

- Why the review of the Governance Structure had been required and how this had been undertaken
- The main changes and how this would impact on the Ward Alliance
- The new Ward Alliance Ground rules
- The next steps and how the future priorities would be determined which would be based on a self-assessment process

In the ensuing discussion particular reference was made to the following:

- The ways in which Ward Alliance Membership could reflect the demographic of the area (particularly as this related to young people) and the need to develop links with all groups and underrepresented sections of society – Reference was made, for example, to the need to improve the use of social media platforms
- The ways in which Ward Alliances would examine the new Framework and devise their own priorities for the future was particularly highlighted
- It was noted that a further review would be undertaken in two years' time

Revised Governance Framework 2018

Amanda Bradshaw, Community Development Officer, circulated a booklet, took Members through the new Ward Alliance Governance Framework 2018 and explained the main changes from the previous arrangements. She made particular reference to;

- The background to the Framework and how it would work in practice
- The purpose of Ward Alliances
- The Membership Arrangements and how Community Representatives were appointed and membership terminated where appropriate
- The various roles within Ward Alliances
- The operation of meetings and the making of recommendations
- The Ward Alliance Fund
- The suggested ground rules for the operation of Ward Alliances. It was noted that each Ward Alliance was expected to develop and use its own ground rules using this document as a guide

In the ensuing discussion particular reference was made to the following:

- The use of Sub Groups
- The way in which the review/self-assessment of the operation of the Alliance would be undertaken. A link to the 'self-assessment forms' would be sent out shortly
- The need to 'have sight' of the current Ward Plan and how this would be developed in order to identify Ward priorities

- The need to receive and review statistical data as this would ensure that resources were targeted appropriately
 - There was a further discussion of Ward Alliance Membership and the ways in which membership could be terminated
 - Arising out of the above, reference was made to a Sheffield Diocesan initiative which would bring additional finance to the area. It was suggested that appropriate contact should be made with the Rector of Wombwell
 - All current members were to be contacted and requested to re-confirm their willingness to continue. This letter would be sent out next week
- Reference was made to declarations of interest and advice was given from the Council Governance Officer. Any member with any queries could always contact Governance and Member Support for further advice. Arising out of this it was noted that in future all reports and requests for funding would be sent out in a timely manner with the agenda so that Members could give consideration to their declarations prior to the meeting

There was then a discussion of the current spending profile and of the need to ensure that this was utilised correctly. One scheme for hanging baskets required an application to be submitted which would leave approximately £5,000 remaining within the Fund. It was also suggested that if an indication was given that unspent allocation could not be carried forward into 2019/20 a special case exemption should be sought.

There was also a brief discussion of the operation of certain clubs/associations in the area and of possible future initiatives. Particular reference was made in this regard to the operation of the lunch club, the issue of isolation and loneliness and a Winter Well-Being event to be held at Wombwell Library on the 8th February, 2019.

RESOLVED that the report be received and the review of Governance arrangements and the implications for the Ward Alliance be noted.

3 Dates of Future Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting would be arranged to look at future Ward Alliance priorities and priority setting. To assist the discussion a list of current priorities together with a copy of the current Ward Plan would also be circulated. The Ward Alliance would also be asked to consider future membership arrangements

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Ward Alliance be hold on Monday 11th February, 2019 at 6.00 pm in Wombwell Library.